

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 23, 32 and 33 have been amended to along the lines suggested by the Examiner on pages 3-5 of the Office Action so as to overcome the objections to the claims.

Claim 20, however, has not been amended as suggested by the Examiner since the photographed image data recited in the third display control unit limitation of claim 1 is photographed image data of the selected display area, whereas the "photographed image data" recited in line 7 of claim 20 is photographed image data of the arbitrary display area.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered and that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amendments to the claims are not related to patentability, and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Significantly, according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33, from among all of the

photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area, a number of the photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area is limited to a predetermined number. And according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33, other photographed image data, that is from among the all of the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area and that is not included in the predetermined number, is displayed by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data simultaneously displayed in the selected display area, while maintaining the first, second and third display controls, thereby continuously displaying the other photographed image data in the selected display area.

Similarly, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 23, the number of the photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in each group is limited to a predetermined number, and other photographed image data, from among all of the photographed image data included in each group and not displayed within the predetermined number of simultaneously displayed photographed image data, is displayed by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data simultaneously displayed in each group, while maintaining the display control of the first and second display control units,

thereby continuously displaying on the display all of the other photographed image data included in each group.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 23, 32 and 33, a number of the photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area is limited to a predetermined number. For example, in claim 1, assume that four of the photographed image data are assigned to the selected display area as all of the photographed image data of the (corresponding) image group by the second display control unit, and that two (first and second) of the photographed image data of the assigned four image data can be simultaneously displayed at first in the selected display area by the third display control unit. Then, according to claim 1, under control of the fourth display control unit, the display of the firstly displayed two of the photographed image data is changed to the other two (third and fourth) of the photographed image data, while maintaining display control of the first to third display control units. The above example can similarly be applied to claims 23, 32 and 33.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 20, 21, 23, 32 and 33 were again rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by previously cited US 2002/0140820 ("Borden"), and claims 11, 13 and 22 were again rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Borden with one or more of previously

cited US 2002/0033296 ("Rothmuller et al") and previously cited USP 6,118,480 ("Anderson et al"). These rejections, however, are again respectfully traversed.

Significantly, it is respectfully submitted that Borden does not disclose or suggest the above described features and effects of the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 23, 32 and 33.

In item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has cited Fig. 1 and paragraphs [0018]-[0023] of Borden as teaching the features of the claimed present invention. According to the Examiner, the displaying of images can be limited or not limited according to the user's preferences by utilizing the selection region 28. And according to the Examiner, Fig. 1 of Borden shows the claimed display controls which are all maintained while displaying the other photographed image data in the selected display area.

However, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0018] of Borden merely show that the particular thumbnail view 22 may be selected by the user for a particular group of files, or calculated by the system as the most representative file. According to Fig. 1 of Borden, only one thumbnail view 22 is shown in the display area of T (Thursday; July 12, 2001), and two thumbnail views 22 are shown in the display area of S (Sunday; July 14, 2001). See paragraph [0021] of Borden. It is respectfully submitted that Borden does

not disclose or suggest whether a number of the photographed image data thereof which can be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area (for example, Thursday, Sunday, and the like) is limited to a predetermined number as according to the claimed present invention.

On page 6 in the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the reference numeral 14G in Fig. 1 of Borden corresponds to the "selected display area" of the claimed present invention, and that the thumbnail view 22 in Fig. 1 of Borden corresponds to the "photographed image data" of the claimed present invention. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Borden does not disclose or suggest that (by using the selection region 28 or otherwise) the number of thumbnail views 22, from the "July 14, 2001" image group, which are simultaneously displayed in the display area 14G are limited to a predetermined number. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Borden does not disclose or suggest that after first displaying the predetermined number of thumbnail views 22 from the "July 14, 2001" image group in the display area 14G, other (predetermined number of) thumbnail views 22 from the "July 14, 2001" image group are then displayed in the display area 14G, thereby continuously displaying all thumbnail views 22 of the "July 14, 2001" image group in the display area 14G, predetermined number of thumbnail views at-a-time. If the Examiner disagrees, it is respectfully requested that the

Examiner particularly point out where in the disclosure thereof Borden teaches the above described features of the present invention - i.e., the second and third display controls of claim 23 and the third and fourth display controls of claims 1, 32 and 33.

In item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that "displaying of images can [be] limited or not limited according to the user's preferences by utilizing the selection region 28." Paragraph [0019] of Borden, however, merely states that the user may increment/decrement the year 36, month 32, day 34 or modify other parameters that changes the calendar representation. Therefore, according to Borden, correspondence between the display areas and the image groups may be changed when the selection region 28 is operated, unlike the (third (claim 23) or fourth (claims 1, 32 and 33)) display control of the claimed present invention that controls while the first, second and third display controls (claims 1, 32 and 33) or the first and second display controls (claim 23) are maintained. For example, when the month 32 is incremented from July, 2001 to August, 2001 in the display of Fig. 2 of Borden by operating the selection region 28, the relationship between an image group assigned to the July 4, 2001 display area, for example, may be changed, thereby changing the image display control unlike the maintaining

function of the third (claim 23) or fourth (claims 1, 32 and 33) display controls of the claimed present invention.

Further, paragraph [0022] of Borden discloses that a user-selected thumbnail view or image data may be displayed as a larger thumbnail view 60 or a thumbnail view 64. These views 60 and 64 are provided for displaying only one thumbnail view. And even if the views 60 and 64 were considered to correspond to the "selected display area" of the claimed present invention, it is respectfully submitted that contrary to the claimed present invention, no image group is assigned to any of the areas of the views 60 and 64.

Rothmuller et al and Anderson, moreover, have been merely cited with respect to the subject matter of the dependent claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Rothmuller et al and Anderson et al were combinable with Borden in the manner suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still not achieve or render obvious the above described features and effects of the first to fourth display control units as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33, and the first to third display control units as recited in independent claim 23.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 23, 32 and 33, and claims 2-7, 11-22, 24 and 25 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over Borden,

Rothmuller et al and Anderson et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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